

SECRET CONTROL
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Operational (Albania)

PGA-4066

As Stated

12 August 1949

31 August 1949

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1. Group 1 left for its area on 1 August 1949. It was accompanied by the "Memertsika" group of liaisons, and they crossed the Greek-Albanian border on the night of 2-3 August 1949. They reached Sopoti, where the group of liaisons turned back. Group 1 moved on towards the area of its final destination. The crossing of the border and the movement as far as Sopoti were made normally and without anything happening. Up to 10 August 1949 there was no indication or report that the existence of this group had been discovered.

2. Group 5 is to make contact with group 1 within Albanian territory on 24 August 1949. This was determined by a personal agreement between the leaders of groups 1 and 5. A part of Group 5 under the Group leader moved towards its area on 6 August 1949. The movement of this group towards its destination will be carried out by road because of the lack of a boat. The liaison group "Aetos" accompanied this part of Group 5 because of the change in its route.

3. The despatching of Group 2 was delayed because of a report that the Albanian forces on its route had been increased as a result of the operations on Grammos. It was necessary to allow time for making a reconnaissance of the route previously determined or to find another route through the use of a group of liaisons. The latter was done, and the Group moved to its area, crossing the border on the night of 11-12 August 1949. Group 2 was accompanied by another group of eight men from smaller groups.

4. The expected operations on Grammos and Vitsi resulted in the Albanians taking severe security measures in the area of activity of Group 3. This Group entered Albania and went to the Korce area on 19 July 1949 to collect intelligence and to organize an intelligence and liaison network. Group 3 returned to Greece on 26 July 1949 with the following report:

- a. The peasants of the area are terrorized, and when the group made contact with them, the latter warned them to leave because there was immediate danger of their being discovered.

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- b. Biglista is the base of a Border Battalion with a strength of 500 men. It has companies in Boxigrad, Poutsara, and Kapetitsa.
- c. The morale of the Albanian army and people, particularly after the TITO-HOXHA break, is very low. The courts martial are sentencing deserters from the army every day.
- d. There are rumors circulating that in August the Americans and the Greek Army will enter Albania. In case of hostilities (sic) 60-70 percent of the Albanian Army is ready to desert.
- e. According to the leader of Group 3, despite the measures that have been taken it is possible to organize a network for intelligence and activity. For this reason the group has been reinforced with three other tried and tested Albanian refugees. It is now ready to return to its area within a few days.
- f. Group 4 is still in Yannina. The expected arrival from Italy of ten co-workers was thwarted. They were picked up in Bari by Alush LUSHANAKOU of the VERLACCI group, most probably for the benefit of the Italian Intelligence Service.
- g. The boat left for its destination on 8 August 1949. It is delayed in the port of Patras because of engine trouble, which is now being remedied. This engine failure creates serious doubts as to the seaworthiness of this boat.

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